



THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

October 2005
Volume 75, Issue 08

HI-Q

VE3FW—LARC call sign
honours the memory of the
Founding President
P.J. "Pat" O'shea

2005-06 Executive Elected President's position Not Filled

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The first regular meeting of the
2005-2006 season on Thurs-
day, September 8, 2005 .

General elections were held for
the executive positions..

After 2 years of doing an excel-
lent job, outgoing President
Bill, VE3XT, gave notice that
he will not be running for re-
election and opened the posi-
tion for any takers.

After some effort by **Terry,
VA3LU**, who oversaw and led
the membership into the elec-
tion proceedings, all of the po-
sitions were filled by acclama-
tion except for the president..

The club president position was
still vacant after several rounds
of nominations.

Also, with the start of the new
season, a change of staff for
editing the Hi-Q Newsletter has

taken place.

Outgoing Hi-Q editor,
Glen, VE3ICY, has opted for a
much needed break after hold-
ing this position for three years.
His contributions in editing and
publishing the Hi-Q Newsletter
for the past several years is
much appreciated, and his time
and effort in bringing out a
great timely edition was a real
asset to the club. Hope to have
you back on board soon, Glen.

Your new Hi-Q editor, (at least
for a while) will be **Leo,
VE3ATC**. Hopefully, I can
keep up the pace Glen has set,
and get this out on time!

With that said, members can
forward all submissions to
Hi-Q via email to:
ve3atc@spruce.ca

A reminder:
2005—2006
Membership
Dues
are
outstanding

Payment can be made to
**Treasurer -
Joe, VE3TBX**
or
**Vice-President -
Bob, VE3RVA**

- Next Meeting
Thursday
October 13, 2005 at
the McIntyre Building,
Confederation College
Room 191
at 7:30 pm EDT
- Membership dues are
being accepted for the
2005-2006 year and
are NOW DUE
- President position still
to be filled

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT	Mount Baldy	147.060 (-600) Phone Patch
VE3TBR	St. Joseph's	146.820 (-600) Phone Patch 442.075 (+5 MHz)
VE3BGA	Hillcrest H.S.	145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)



The Prez Sez.....

Editor note: The Prez Sez..... Will be back on the next issue.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Treasurers Report

Opening Balance	\$2,824.96
Income	
Memberships	\$630.00
50/50 Draw	\$12.00
Donation - Thunder Wolves Run	\$100.00
Total Income	\$742.00
Expenses	
Thunder Bay Telephone	\$44.02
Bank Service Fee	\$0.50
Total Expenses	\$44.52
Closing Balance - October 6, 2005	\$3,522.44

Joe Coghlan - VE3TBX
Treasurer

How Not to Erect an Antenna

- Bill Unger, VE3XT

Every summer one of the highlights for me is to participate in a contest called the "Flight of the Bumblebees" or FOBB. The premise of this test is to take your QRP station and hike, bike or canoe and then operate for 4 hours from this location. This year I hiked up to a lookout just behind Chippewa Park. It had a glorious view of the lake and the city.

My rig of choice for this outing is my Elecraft K1. It is a small rig with 3 watts output and best of all has a built in automatic antenna tuner. My antenna of choice is an end fed long wire and counterpoise. I usually just toss one end of the wire in to a nearby tree, lay out the counterpoise on the ground and have the internal automatic tuner work its magic.

Several years ago I took this setup to Italy with me to visit my wife's sister and her husband Rico. I had everything necessary except a heavy object to toss over a tree. My brother in law gave me a big old galvanized nut. And it worked like a hot darn. It has since been christened Rico's nut! Now it even has a little more significance as Rico passed away a year ago.

Anyway as it happened the Monday after the FOBB there was another contest called the Spartan Sprint and since the weather was nice I decided to operate from our deck with the same set up. I figured it would be easy as there are lots of suitable poplar trees behind our yard. I tossed Rico's nut up a few times and never got it high enough. I then tried going outside the yard and was right under the tree and gave it a toss. No luck. Back inside the fence and give it another whirl.

Rats, it got stuck in the tree. And no matter how hard I pulled it would not come down. I kept tugging and tugging until.....snap the wire broke and the 1 ¼ inch nut came at me like a bullet. Luckily it hit the ground first and then ricocheted up and hit me square in the chest and actually winded me. A smarter man would have been more deterred, I became more determined.

Another toss and of all the rotten luck it got tangled up again. This time I was hiding behind the fence as I was pulling on the wire. It was caught up fast. I pulled some more and now the string broke and there up in the tree was Rico's nut dangling in the wind. I couldn't leave it up there could I?

Obviously there was only one thing to do, chop down the tree and rescue Rico's nut. Oh did I tell you this fence was brand new, just put up earlier this summer. And yes the tree was right beside the fence and leaning slightly over it. Out comes the old buck saw. Now how does that work, notch it on the side you want to fall or is it the other way? Oh well it's a 50/50 deal. I put the notch on the side I want it to fall on. Now I start to saw. The tree is leaning a little more over the fence.

We all have those unforgettable moments that we remember forever, and the SNAP that the tree made as the fibers were torn apart was one of them. If you have ever cut a tree like this six inch poplar you know how it starts so slowly after the snap and then it picks up speed and is finally unstoppable in the grasp of gravity.

Fortunately for me this one fell exactly parallel to the fence precisely as I had planned it and I went and rescued Rico's nut. Whew was I lucky. I even managed to perform this little circus without my wife noticing.

I immediately found another tree in the yard and popped the wire into it and was content with a few feet less of elevation.

You would think that was the end of the story and I operated the contest and did ok. Well I did start into the contest and was doing ok.....until.

We babysat our son's dog for a month this summer. Zora is 75 pounds of slobbering stupidity. A blue tick crossed with a coon hound that does nothing but eat, run, howl and ...well you can imagine.

At exactly 1 hour and 10 minutes into the contest my wife was going to take Zora for a walk. This was just after 9 PM. The dog got loose on us. She went madly off in all directions and finally found a skunk that happened to pick that time of the evening to go for a stroll.

Needless to say that was the end of my contesting and we spent the rest of the evening washing a dog.◊



Bill VE3XT



"there was only one thing to do, chop down the tree and rescue Rico's nut"



Amateur Radio in times of Disaster

from the ARRL Letter—September 30, 2005

"Amateur Radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure"

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, testified on behalf of the League September 29 before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Addressing the hearing topic, "Public Safety Communications from 9/11 to Katrina: Critical Public Policy Lessons,"

Kramer reiterated and amplified comments ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, delivered earlier this month to the House Government Reform Committee. As Haynie did on September 15, Kramer testified on the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"Amateur Radio was uniquely suited to this task by virtue of the availability of HF communications covering long distances without fixed infrastructure," Kramer pointed out in his testimony. In addition to those who responded to

support relief agencies in hurricane-devastated areas, thousands more radio amateurs outside the affected area monitored radio traffic and relayed health-and-welfare messages, he said.

Kramer noted that there's been a lot of discussion in recent years about public safety interoperability. "The Amateur Radio Service provides a good deal of interoperability communications for first responders in disaster relief incidents," he told the subcommittee. He said ham radio is able to fill this crucial role because even the "interoperability channels" that exist in most Public Safety allocations are useless when the Public Safety communication infrastructure goes down.

Full text at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/05/0930/>

Next regular meeting

Thursday

October 13, 2005

McIntyre Building, Confederation College

Room 191

7:30 pm EDT

CONFUCIUS SAY.....

Confucius say,

"The only thing shorter than a weekend is a vacation".

Confucius Say...

"Many people quit looking for work when they find a job."

Confucius Say...

"Asking a stupid question is better than repairing a stupid mistake."

**THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB JOURNAL**

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LARC is a member of RAC

**LARC
SENATE**

Keith Fiske
Pat Doherty
Dave Kimpton
Laurie Bridgett

VE3JQ
VE3PD
VE3AVS
VE3BCD

**LARC
EXECUTIVE
2005—2006****President**

Not yet filled

Vice-President

Bob Hanson VE3RVA 767-6924

Secretary

Terry Stewardson VA3LU 577-9439

Treasurer

Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566

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Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

Manuel Migueis VE3MPT 475-5686

Fort Michelizzi VE3MCZ 475-0971

Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC 939-1020

Editor

Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC 939-1020

Past President

Bill Unger VE3XT

Editor's QSK.....

Hi

New editor, new publication!

Our club editor, **Glen VE3ICY**, is taking a much needed break from his editor and publishing duties, having done so with a nice publication that was easy to traverse and perhaps better suited for the challenges I see coming in layout and content that usually arrives on short notice!

Also, **VE3ICY** did a fantastic job of getting the monthly issue out just before the meetings!

I may have to have him set me up on his auto dialer to keep me on schedule so I can follow his examples!

Remember, Glen, the job is yours whenever you feel the urge to take the leap again!

Thanks again from the membership for your time and dedication for a job well done!

I am trying a layout of HI-Q that feels comfortable with me, and it will be up to the membership to let me know if its hard to read, or load the pdf file, or whatever!

This layout is more compatible with my ways, but if we find it hard to read or follow, it can be changed!

If you know of any member who did not receive their Hi-Q via email, let me know! The mailing list has been copied over and installed here, but some things may have been dropped from the files

To make sure your submissions are in the next issue, send them to me as early as possible!

73,

Leo, VE3ATC

E-mail: ve3atc@spruce.ca